

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OCT 19 2018

for the

Southern District of Texas

Clark of Court

United States of America )  
 v. )  
 Cesar Edgardo CONTRERAS-CRUZ )  
 DOB: 1997, Citizenship: Mexico )  
 )  
 )  
 )  
 )

Case No. M-18-2140-M

Defendant(s)

## CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of October 18, 2018 in the county of Hidalgo in the  
Southern District of Texas, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

31 USC 5332

Knowingly and intentionally concealed over \$10,000.00, that is approximately  
\$25,000.00 in United States Currency, on the person of such individual or in  
any conveyance, in any article of luggage, merchandise or container with the  
intent to evade a currency reporting requirement, and attempt to transport or  
transfer said currency from a place within the United Mexican States to a  
place inside the United States.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

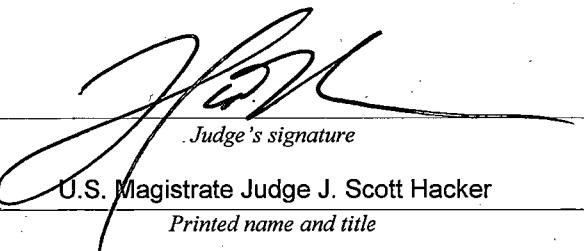
See Attachment "A"

 Continued on the attached sheet.Approved by R. Pendergrass  
HSI SALori L. Pendergrass  
Complainant's signature

Lori L. Pendergrass, HSI SA

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 10/19/2018
  
 U.S. Magistrate Judge J. Scott Hacker  
 Printed name and title
City and state: McAllen, Texas

**Attachment "A"**

On October 18, 2018, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), were conducting operations at the Pharr Port of Entry (POE) when they encountered a Ford F150 bearing Mexico plates ZXZ039K attempting to enter the United States. The vehicle was driven by Cesar Edgardo CONTRERAS-CRUZ. During the inspection, CBP Officers received a negative declaration from CONTRERAS-CRUZ for firearms, ammunition or currency over \$10,000.00. CONTRERAS-CRUZ declared \$100 United States Dollars (USD). CONTRERAS-CRUZ was referred to secondary for an intensive examination. During the secondary inspection, CBP Officers conducted a K9 search of the vehicle and at this time CONTRERAS-CRUZ freely stated there was money concealed in the tool box located in the bed of the pickup truck. CBP Officers discovered bundles of currency concealed underneath a mat inside the tool box. The total amount of U.S. Currency concealed in the tool box was approximately \$25,000.00.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Special Agents (SA) and HSI Task Force Officers (TFOs) responded to the Pharr, POE to interview CONTRERAS-CRUZ. CONTRERAS-CRUZ was read his Miranda Rights, in Spanish, and subsequently waived his rights, both orally and in writing.

CONTRERAS-CRUZ freely stated that he was aware that the vehicle he was operating had currency concealed inside the tool box located in the bed of the pickup truck. CONTRERAS-CRUZ stated post Miranda that he knew he had more than \$10,000 in the vehicle and that he has made previous money trips in the past. CONTRERAS-CRUZ further stated that he knew the money originated from illicit activities and is aware of the currency reporting requirements. CONTRERAS-CRUZ specifically concealed the currency to avoid the currency reporting requirements.